

- A truly kind & liberal thing it is of the noble
 owner of this ~~exquisite~~ ^{other} princely seat,
 to throw them open to the public without reserve,
 & no room could be more highly valued or
 more freely used: it is not unusual for a
~~to~~ a thousand persons to visit Bolton
 Abbey on one day; & even the factory operatives
 who crowd her upon holidays are appreciative
 visitors who know what to admire, & very
 familiar with the loveliest spots in the
 beautiful West Riding: & their "Oh, but it's
 right fair grand!" - is discriminative
 praise. The

Fountains, wanting the picturesque in ruin which distinguishes Kirkstall, the Abbey itself is not ^{nowhere} conspicuous - and yet the northern houses.

The shell of the church is nearly entire, too much so indeed for picturesque effect. It exhibits two distinct styles of architecture; first, the twelfth century work of the original builders who appear to have finished the Choir before their migration from Embsay in 1156: the ~~the~~ ^{the} ~~the~~ capitals of the Choir & the arches above the Chancel evidence the early date of this part of the building, the ~~truncated~~ ^{plainly} windows being ~~undoubtedly~~ ^{plainly} of late insertion: ~~secondly~~ the fourteenth century work which appears to have included a general renovation. The final effort was the sixteenth century perpendicular tower which ^{is richly decorated,} ~~is somewhat~~ ^{is} designed to the west front. Above this tower bears the following inscription on a kind of frieze:-

"In the year of our Lord mxcxx, R. ^{begun this} foundation on which Lord God have mercy. Amen." ^{when a crescent moon is partially made to stand}
In the name of the last prior, who began a tower he was not able to finish, the order for the Dissolution of the Greater House stopping his work.

The front of prior Thomas tower is richly decorated, showing tabernacles, containing shields & other devices, supporting diminutive canopies: the work is delicate & the effect good, but it wants the unity, the fine simplicity of the original west front which this later excrescence darkens, & partly conceals.

* The date is 1520, not 1620 as would appear from the unusual manner in which it is expressed.

The nave having been reserved at the Dissolution for
the use of the 'Sacen Curo' is still the parish church.
~~Yesterday~~ The Morning service in this 'little chapel'
in the wood on a certain ~~fine~~ ^{in May to me} Sunday was
great and well forgotten. To enjoy it fully,
the visitor should settle himself as we did
in the little hamlet of ~~Stowbury~~ ^{Stowbury} which is
lodged on the edge of the moors overlooking the
Abbey from the left bank of the river. From this
high ground you get a just idea of the
sort of country you are in: the sombre moor-
hills sink away on all sides, ridge behind
ridge, & at your feet is the beautiful valley,
the river to be discerned only by its woody margin.
Presently, you are within the demesne, viz. by
the time you reach the Abbey, you are not ready
to sing Te Deum. The fault is with yourself. Within
things are done decently & in order, there is no
slovenliness in contrast with the outside low
liness; the church has been worthily restored
by the late Dr. Street. ^{perhaps because a few ladies help the choir.} The singing is unusually
pleasant, ~~the cultivated voices of a few ladies~~
~~supplementing the efforts of the choir from boys.~~
The five fine lancet windows in the south wall
are filled with modern Munich glass. The
gift of the Duke. & the north there is an aisle,
the single aisle being a curious transitional
feature peculiar to the Church of a House of Monks.
Grasses & creeping plants wave in the
windows & cling to the walls of the beautiful choir
which is entirely a ruin. The magnificent arch of the
East window is yet unbroken, but little of the tracery remains.
Bottom

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The charm of Bolton consists in the ^{lie} singular
variety & beauty of the scenes ^{views} ~~displayed~~ ^{to be had} from
particular points of view: you can never say
you have seen the place, for who knows what
lovely peep any ~~unexplored~~ ^{undiscovered} rise may disclose!
Artists abound here; every third person you
meet - except on holidays - is an artist, but
the breadth & sweep of these scenes cannot
be got into any canvas: words are quite
foolishly inadequate, & yet we cannot help
offering the reader one or two vignettes, ^{with} even
at the risk of his, 'Pooh, this

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perform manual labours: but they were gentlemen,
persons of ^{social} influence, & they early found ways to
emancipate themselves from the rigours of
conventual life rule. The Canons of Bolton who
flourished here for four centuries, from their
foundation in 1154 to the Dissolution in 1540
seem to have been average specimens of their
~~class~~ ^{order}: they formed a nucleus of civilization
in these northern wilds; many of the Brethren,
we may suppose, lived estimably, but not one
has left behind an illustrious name.

The Chapter numbered some fifteen
Canons, with a Prior, who had separate lodgings
his own chapel, & a sub-prior, also a person of
distinction, & certain dependents. These all
lived right royally on an income of not less
than £10,000 a year of our money.

Below Ellkey, you ~~may~~ come ~~occasionally~~ upon the inevitable mill chimney of the West Riding, but above that charming watering place the air is uncontaminated & delicious as in any highland strath. Perhaps the neighbourhoods of Ellkey, Sowerby & Ellkey are the prettiest in the lower valley; Upper Wharfedale is lovely throughout; ~~the wide tract included in Bolton Woods is~~ "the same, only more so": here is, certainly, a softer loveliness, a greater grace; but that is because the Wharfe ^{surges & plunges} hitherto singularly rapid & direct in its course, here winds excessively, so that, from some points of view, ^{with many a} the eye may glance over five or six gleaming water lines almost ^{side by side} parallel.

Bolton Woods skirt the fells which shut in the valley, leaving the lower grounds free: here there are clearings & now & then are the woods ^{very} dense. Threading these woods in every direction are paths - no less than fifty miles of ~~paths~~ ridings - so that you may walk upon the slopes with comfort: at frequent intervals you come upon a weather worn bench, ^{wood or not}, ^{pruned} ^{at} ~~be seated~~. The path probably only exists ^{at} ~~leading~~ ^{to} ~~leading~~ you to this or ~~such~~ another rustic seat whence, from your height you gaze down upon a ~~romantic~~ ^{gorge} full of delight.

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protest up by 'the Owners', begging that visitors to
Bolton Woods - shop number (sometime) 1,000 in
a day - will not loiter about the windows of the
Hall when the family is in residence: notwithstanding which, -
"T'furniture's right bonny
bess, Aw've just pept in at yon window
t'wice, t' "Got ony boddy ther?" "Nobbut a
Caidy Cither' down in a cheer an' a sarvant,
t'furniture's a' cover'd up ta keep it clean?"
"Dus ta heer what shoo says, Maary yaan?
Let's go an' hev a look!" - And half a dozen
women who feel themselves judges of
furniture if not of architecture, troop
up to the windows of the Hall: happily
no one will be inconvenienced but the
servants in charge; & during the two or
three weeks of the shooting season which
the Duke spends her avatchers guards
against such contretemps. Yet,
Scene like the above notwithstanding, the
factory operatives who crowd her upon
holidays are appreciative visitors. They
know what to admire being familiar
with the loveliest spots in the beautiful
West Midland; & their, "Eh, but it's right
fair grand!" - is discriminating praise.

J. W.